

1-25. (Cancelled).

26. (Currently amended) A computer system, comprising:
a computer processor,
an operating system operative in connection with the computer processor, a display responsive to the operating system,
a mouse that is movable with respect to a work surface and includes:
a position sensor operative to interact with the work surface to derive a position signal and having an output line for the position signal, and
a tactile actuator having an input line,
a mouse driver responsive to the output line of the position sensor and wherein the input line of the tactile actuator is responsive to the mouse driver,
a plurality of applications responsive to the mouse driver and to the operating system and in communication with the display, and wherein the mouse driver is responsive to the general purpose applications, ~~and~~
a plurality of application-specific profile elements for the plurality of applications that define tactile signals to be sent to the tactile actuator when interacting with the corresponding ~~application-application~~,
wherein the profile elements include at least one textual profile element that is based on cells each containing a single alphanumeric character in a textual area, and
wherein the profile elements include at least one graphical profile element that is based on graphical elements in a graphical area.

27. (Cancelled).

28. (Previously presented) The apparatus of claim 26 wherein at least some of the application-specific profile elements correspond to classes of the applications supported by the computer system.

29-38. (Cancelled).

39. (Currently amended) A method of operating a computer, comprising:

- receiving signals from a mouse as it moves with respect to a work surface during interaction with a first ~~application~~, application that is operative to present textual material,
- accessing a ~~first~~textual application-specific profile element that is based on cells each containing a single alphanumeric character in the textual material,
- sending a first type of actuation command request signal to an actuator in the mouse in response to the step of receiving signals from a mouse during interaction with the first application, with the type of actuation command request being defined by the step of accessing a ~~first~~textual application-specific profile element,
- generating a first type of tactile signal in the mouse in response to the first type of actuation command,
- receiving signals from a mouse as it moves with respect to a work surface during interaction with a second application that is operative to present graphical material,
- accessing a ~~second~~graphical application-specific profile element that is based on graphical elements in the graphical material,
- sending a second type of actuation command request signal to an actuator in the mouse in response to the step of receiving signals from a mouse during interaction with the second application, with the type of actuation command request being defined by the step of accessing a ~~second~~graphical application-specific profile element,
- generating a second type of tactile signal in the mouse in response to the second type of actuation command.

40. (Cancelled).

41. (Previously presented) The apparatus of claim 26 wherein at least one of the profile elements maps interactions with single alphanumeric characters to tactical impulses.

42. (Previously presented) The apparatus of claim 41 wherein the tactical impulses are sent to the actuator in the form of analog pulses.

43. (Previously presented) The apparatus of claim 26 wherein ~~at least one of the profile elements~~the textual profile element maps movement from one character to the next to a tactical signal.

44. (Previously presented) The apparatus of claim ~~28 wherein the classes include at least one text-based class~~26 wherein the graphical profile element maps interactions with single pixel transitions in a graphical window

45. (Previously presented) The apparatus of claim 28 wherein the classes include at least one unknown application.

46. (Previously presented) The method of claim 39 wherein at least some of the application-specific profile elements are derived by a driver as the computer operates.

47. (Previously presented) The method of claim 46 wherein at least some of the application-specific profile elements are derived from scanning at least a part of a window.

48. (Previously presented) The method of claim 46 wherein at least ~~some~~some of the application-specific profile elements are derived from applying tests to screen display information.

49. (Previously presented) The method of claim 48 wherein at least some of the application-specific profile elements are derived from applying simplified statistical tests.

50. (Previously presented) The method of claim 39 wherein at least some of the application-specific profile elements correspond to classes of the applications supported by the computer.

51. ~~(Previously presented) The method of claim 50 wherein the classes include at least one text-based class.~~ (Cancelled).

52. (Previously presented) The method of claim 50 wherein the classes include at least one unknown application.

53. (Previously presented) The apparatus of claim 26 wherein the mouse includes a housing that supports the position sensor and tactile actuator.

54. (Currently amended) The apparatus of claim 26 wherein at least one of the applications includes a word processor and at least one of the applications includes a drawing program.

55. (Currently amended) The apparatus of claim 26 wherein at least some of the graphical application-specific profile elements are based on ~~cells each containing a single alphanumeric character.~~ individual pixel intensity values.

56. (Currently amended) The method of claim 39 wherein at least one of the applications includes a word processor and at least one of the applications includes a drawing program.

57. (Currently amended) The method of claim 39 wherein at least some of the application-specific profile elements are based on ~~cells each containing a single alphanumeric character.~~ pixel-to-pixel transitions.